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Global Studies

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**Kingdom Film Analysis**

**Intro:**

In Global Studies, we watched the movie, *The Kingdom*. Since watching the movie my view, along with my classmates’ views, of the Middle East have changed. The biggest thing that I learned from the movie was that not all Middle Easterners are radical terrorists. If they were, there would be almost nobody living in the region. A lot of these people are afraid of terrorists, and want terrorism to end just like most of the world does.

**Summary:**

*The Kingdom* was about four FBI agents that go to Saudi Arabia to investigate a bombing that killed many Saudi citizens. They were given only seven days to do so. When they first get there, they aren’t allowed to touch anything at the crime scene, and the Saudi police are very protective of them. Then, while visiting the Saudi prince, Ronald Fleury persuades the prince to give the FBI full consent to investigate however they felt necessary in order to capture the terrorists. Even though they make very good progress, they run out of time and are forced to go home. On their way to the airport, their convoy is attacked by the terrorists, and Adam Leavitt is captured. So, the FBI agents and the Saudi police chase after the terrorists and get into a big gun fight. They eventually free Adam and kill the terrorist ringleader.

**Example of contemporary Middle Eastern society:**

A specific scene from the movie that helped me get a better understanding of Middle Eastern society would be when the FBI agents are getting ready to start the shootout with the terrorists. I don’t believe that the shooting is an everyday part of the culture, but the way the people in the streets were dressed and the way the towns were set up is what I believe is everyday life for them. The women were dressed in black clothing that covered their entire body except for their eyes. Also, the streets were made of all sand and dirt, and the buildings were kind of like giant shacks instead of the normal buildings that we see here in America.

**Favorite scene that impacts view of Middle East:**

My favorite scene from the movie that impacted my view of the Middle East was the very last scene because it gave viewers a sense of closure. I also liked it because it showed that the Middle East isn’t always about fighting and bombings. It showed viewers that the region is just like any other region in the world. Its people commute to different areas of the region, they are out walking around the towns and other things that we do here in the United States.

**Scene that gives favorable impression:**

A scene that gives a favorable impression of the Middle East was the scene where the FBI agents visit the prince at his palace. Ronald Fleury asked the prince to give his consent to let the FBI agents do what they need to in order to further investigate the bombings and catch the terrorists. The prince agrees to this and lets the FBI agents basically have free reign of the crime scene. This showed that not all Middle Easterners are terrorists, and a lot of them want terrorism to end.

**Scene that gives unfavorable impression:**

A scene that gives an unfavorable impression is the scene where the terrorist blows himself up in the middle of the crowd of people. This is how a lot of people depict the Middle East. They think that everybody is a terrorist and is out to hurt people. This scene more or less supported that stereotype, and made it seem like the other Middle Easterners didn’t really bother to do anything to help.

**Conclusion:**

I really enjoyed this movie. It really taught me that most of the people that live in the Middle East are afraid of terrorists too, but they don’t know how to go about ending terrorism. I think that if they want help stopping it, then they should put more emphasis on law enforcement in the region. It didn’t seem like there were many police officers around the area. I would also install security systems like that of the airport at the entrance of highly concentrated areas of people so that it is easier to detect bombs and guns, and so that there aren’t as many people killed if a bomb does go off. IN all, I would say that this movie was one of my favorites.